



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I WRESTLING COMMITTEE  
MAY 20-21, 2024, ANNUAL MEETING

**KEY ITEMS.**

- **Selection criteria.** The Division I Competition Oversight Committee is asked to approve clarification of matches that will be eligible for selection consideration. (See Action Item 2-b.)

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- **None.**

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Approval of automatic-qualifying conferences.**

(1) Recommendation. That the following conferences be awarded one automatic qualification (AQ) spot for each of the 10 weight classes to the 2025 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships: Atlantic Coast Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big 12 Conference; Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association; Ivy League, Mid-American Conference; Pac-12 Conference; and Southern Conference.

(2) Effective date. 2025 championships.

(3) Rationale. The conferences listed, with the exceptions of the Pac-12, meet AQ requirements. The Pac-12 received a waiver to maintain AQ spots for the 2025 championship. Each conference receives one automatic qualifying position for the champion in each weight class. In addition, pre-allocated spots are awarded to conferences on behalf of the wrestlers competing in their respective conference who meet the established standard.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation provides the eight conferences access to automatic qualification (AQ) and pre-allocation spots for the 2025 championships.

**b. Selection criteria.**

(1) Recommendation. That only results from **nontraditional** events that are registered in the NWCA Optimal Performance Calculator (OPC) system by September 1, and

contested before January 1 of the respective academic year, shall be considered for selection and seeding for the Division I Wrestling Championships.

- (2) Effective date. 2025 championships.
- (3) Rationale. This modification clarifies that the committee will not consider results from nontraditional matches that have become more common later in the season. This is consistent with the value the committee places on traditional formats, (dual meets, individual/dual advancement tournaments), and conference tournament participation to meet the selection criteria.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Eliminating the need to send wrestlers to late-season tournaments not scheduled or budgeted for at the start of the season will result in cost reductions for institutions.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The modification emphasizes traditional formats and encourages thoughtful and intentional scheduling throughout the season that supports consistent participation for student-athletes.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. **Review and approval of the 2023 annual meeting report.** The NCAA Division I Wrestling Committee approved the 2023 annual meeting report as drafted.
- 2. **Review of the 2024 schedule of events.** The committee recommends continuing to have the doors open to the public 90 minutes before the competition. The committee agreed to retain the Tuesday afternoon/evening open practice session and scheduled practice times for teams on Wednesday at the competition venue. The committee directed staff to explore the possibility of having practice mats at the team hotels. The committee directed staff to modify the weigh-in line-up times, as less line-up time is needed on days two and three with fewer wrestlers.
- 3. **Operations review.** The committee reviewed operational functions and made several recommendations.
  - a. **Alternate notification.** The committee recommended that **ONLY** the first alternate from each weight class be notified when brackets are released.
  - b. **Rankings/Seeding.** The committee discussed the current coaches' ranking process and directed staff to ask conferences about the process used for conference tournament seeding.
  - c. **Championship format.** The feedback on the championship format changes was positive, and the committee agreed to move forward with maintaining the format with continuous wrestling with championship and consolation matches by weight class during the second

round of competition. During the medal round, matches will continue being competed in place order and not by weight class. However, all place matches in a weight class shall be completed before any of the next place matches begin. This may require a modification in the broadcast break schedule. The committee supports the concept of building the most compelling finals match order based on fan interest, team scores, storyline, etc.

4. **Review of survey results.** Based on a review of survey results, the committee agreed to explore several ideas.
  - a. **Team space.** Continue to allocate space per team based on the number of qualifiers and provide tables and chairs for teams. Given the allocation of team space, the student-athlete lounge area at the competition venue can be eliminated.
  - b. **Warm-up mats.** Ensure that warm-up mats at the competition venue are in an area where the temperature can be managed more effectively. When warm-up space is limited at the competition venue, warm-up mats should be provided at the team hotels.
  - c. **Post-championship communication.** The committee would like to create a post-championship communication to include information on accessing championship videos, survey completion, and participant gift orders.
5. **Officials' report.** Based on a review of the officials' report, the committee agreed to explore several ideas.
  - a. **Video review.** The committee wants to explore setting a time limit for video review, not to exceed 90-120 seconds. The committee recommends that more training be implemented for video review technicians who work the championships. The committee also recommends that active officials be added to the video review staff used at the championships.
  - b. **Officials' recruitment.** There should be a more intentional effort to recruit and develop new officials and prepare them to work the championships. The committee directed staff to work with the national coordinator of officials to address this issue. Potential modifications may include establishing a percentage of the selected officials to be new to the championships each year, and limiting the number of consecutive times an official shall be selected to work the championships.
6. **Bid review.** The committee reviewed the championship bid submissions for the next championship bid cycle (2027-28) using the following criteria as guiding principles.
  - a. **Venue capacity.** The committee believes conducting the championship in venues that can accommodate more fans is important for the growth of the championship. As such, venues with capacities of 18,000+ are preferred.

- b. **Positive financial outcome.** The committee is committed to taking the championships to locations that provide the best possible opportunities for financial success.
- c. **Venue equipped to manage the championship.** The venue must provide adequate floor space for the various mat configurations, the expanded media coverage, and event personnel to perform their assigned functions. A separate practice/warm-up area for participants and space for team areas should also be included. In-venue amenities that allow for presentations that enhance the experience for student-athletes and fans are desired. The venue also must meet broadcast needs including loading dock and storage space, and video replay capability.
- d. **Geographic location.** The location of the championship should allow for access to the traditional wrestling fan base and be in an area that will support the championship. Sites must have good transportation options into and around the area.
- e. **Student-athlete experience.** There should be quality hotels with large numbers of double/double rooms near the competition venue. Amenities should include meeting space to be used for student-athlete lounges, Wi-Fi, ample seating in the participating seating area, and multiple locker rooms.

*Committee Chair:* Jennifer Tuscano, University of Pittsburgh  
*Staff Liaison:* Anthony Holman, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Wrestling Committee May 20-21, 2024, Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Tricia Turley Brandenburg, U.S. Military Academy, Patriot League/EIWA.	
Damion Hahn, South Dakota State, Big 12 Conference.	
Ashley Offerman, California Polytechnical, Pac-12 Conference.	
Doug Tiedt, University of Wisconsin – Madison, Big Ten Conference.	
Jennifer Tuscano, University of Pittsburgh, Atlantic Coast Conference.	
Matt Valenti, University of Pennsylvania, IVY League/EIWA.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Jackie Paquette, National Wrestling Coaches Association.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:</b>	
Anthony Holman, Championships and Alliances.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
None.	